



Media Release

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer Issues \$375,000 Penalty to Groveland Community Services District for Sewage Spills

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SACRAMENTO - The Groveland Community Services District in Tuolumne County has been issued a \$375,000 Administrative Civil Liability penalty by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) for sanitary sewer overflows from the District's sewer collection system.

In August 2010, a 5-day spill of more than 29,000 gallons of raw sewage reached Pine Mountain Lake, and in March 2011 a 12-day raw sewage spill of 38,300 gallons reached Rattlesnake Creek (which drains to Lake Don Pedro), both waters of the United States.

The District operates the sewer system under the State Water Resources Control Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements for sanitary sewer systems, which regulates sanitary sewer systems to reduce overflows.

Extensive fact finding by Water Board staff, in response to citizen reports of the spills, documented the conditions of the releases and substantiated allegations of non-reported spills and underestimation of spill volumes.

The maximum potential liability for these violations is \$824,930. However, the final liability amount is consistent with guidelines adopted in the statewide enforcement policy, and was reached during settlement negotiations with the District.

The District will pay half the final liability amount (\$187,500) to the State Water Resources Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account in four installments. The balance of the liability amount is to be satisfied by the District's completion of an Enhanced Compliance Action (ECA) project for improvements at the District's wastewater treatment plant. Equipment will be installed to enhance wastewater sludge processing and handling, reducing the threat to water quality posed by the sludge.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources. For more information, visit:

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